

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): An oligomer of n-propylethoxysiloxanes, comprising ~~containing~~ from ~~80~~ 90 to 100% by weight of n-propylethoxysiloxanes having a degree of oligomerization ranging from ~~2~~ 3 to 6.

Claims 2-3 (Canceled).

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): The oligomer mixture as claimed in Claim 1 ~~3~~, ~~which contains~~ comprising at least 95% by weight of n-propylethoxysiloxanes having a degree of oligomerization ranging from 3 to 6.

Claim 5 (Canceled).

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): The oligomer mixture as claimed in Claim 1, ~~which contains~~ comprising from 10 to 40% by weight of n-propylethoxysiloxanes possessing an M₂D and/or D₃ structure.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): The oligomer mixture as claimed in Claim 1, ~~which contains~~ comprising from 30 to 60% by weight of n-propylethoxysiloxanes possessing an M₂D₂ and/or M₃T and/or D₄ structure.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): The oligomer mixture as claimed in Claim 1, ~~which~~ ~~contains~~ comprising from 5 to 30% by weight of n-propylethoxysiloxanes possessing an M_2D_3 and/or M_3DT and/or D_5 structure.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): The oligomer mixture as claimed in Claim 1, ~~which~~ ~~contains~~ comprising from 0.1 to 25% by weight of n-propylethoxysiloxanes possessing an M_2D_4 and/or M_3D_2T and/or M_4T_2 and/or D_5 structure.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): The oligomer mixture as claimed in Claim 1, ~~which~~ ~~contains~~ comprising less than 10% by weight of n-propylethoxysiloxanes having a degree of oligomerization n of more than 6.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): The oligomer mixture as claimed in Claim 10, ~~containing~~ comprising less than 5% by weight of n-propylethoxysiloxanes having a degree of oligomerization n of from 7 to 20.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): The oligomer mixture as claimed in Claim 10, ~~containing~~ comprising less than 1% by weight of n-propylethoxysiloxanes having a degree of oligomerization n of more than 20.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): The oligomer mixture as claimed in Claim 1, ~~containing~~ comprising $\leq 5\%$ by weight of free ethanol.

Claim 14 (Original): The oligomer mixture as claimed in Claim 1, having a viscosity of from 3 to 20 mPa s.

Claim 15 (Original): A process for preparing an oligomer mixture of n-propylethoxysiloxanes as claimed in Claim 1, which comprises:

subjecting n-propyltriethoxysilane or n-propyltrichlorosilane to hydrolysis and condensation in ethanolic solution and in the presence of a hydrolysis and condensation catalyst, with the addition of from 0.65 to 0.85 mol of water per mole of Si at a temperature in the range from 40 to 120°C; and

removing the alcohol and hydrogen chloride from the reaction system.

Claim 16 (Currently Amended): An oligomer mixture of n-propylethoxysiloxanes according to Claim 1, which is prepared by the process of Claim 15.

Claim 17 (Original): A method of repelling water, oil or dirt or preventing bioinfestation and/or corrosion of inorganic surfaces, comprising:

treating the surfaces of inorganic substrates with the oligomer mixture as claimed in Claim 1.

Claim 18 (Original): The method as claimed in Claim 17, wherein building materials or structures are impregnated with said oligomer mixture.

Claim 19 (Original): A method of treating smooth, porous and/or particulate substrates, comprising: treating said substrates with the oligomer mixture as claimed in Claim 1.

Claim 20 (Original): A method of treating inorganic surfaces, comprising:

treating the surfaces of metal, ceramic, building materials and structures of iron, steel, brick, masonry, natural stone, concrete, lime sandstone, marble, tiles, artificial stone, sheet glass, hollow glass, laminated glass, bridges, roofs and facades with the oligomer mixture of Claim 1, thereby providing water-, oil-, dirt- and/or paint-repellent properties or corrosion-prevention or adhesion-promoting treatment of the surfaces.

Claim 21 (Original): A method of hydrophobicizing materials, comprising:
treating textiles, leather, cellulose products and starch products with the oligomer mixture of Claim 1, thereby hydrophobicizing and surface-modifying said products.

Claim 22 (Original): A method of coating, comprising:
coating glass fibers and mineral fibers with the oligomer mixture of Claim 1.

Claim 23 (Original): A binder, comprising the oligomer mixture of Claim 1 alone or in combination with other binder ingredients.

Claim 24 (Original): A method of surface-modifying fillers, comprising: treating fillers with the oligomer mixture of Claim 1.

Claim 25 (Original): A method of improving the rheological properties of dispersions and emulsions, comprising:
incorporating the oligomer mixture of Claim 1 in dispersions and emulsions.

Claim 26 (Original): A method of improving the adhesion of organic polymers on inorganic substrates, comprising:

adhering the polymer and inorganic substrate in the presence of the oligomer mixture of Claim 1.

Claim 27 (Original): A release agent, comprising the oligomer mixture of Claim 1.

Claim 28 (Original): Across-linking agent, comprising the oligomer mixture of Claim 1.

Claim 29 (Original): A paint or varnish, comprising the oligomer mixture of Claim 1 as an additive.

Claim 30 (Original): The oligomer mixture as claimed in Claim 1 in the form of a concentrate, a dilute alcoholic solution or a solution in hydrocarbons for application.

Claim 31 (Currently Amended): A composition, comprising ~~the~~ an oligomer mixture comprising from 80 to 100% by weight of n-propylethoxysiloxanes having a degree of oligomerization ranging from 2 to 6, as claimed in Claim 1 together with (i) at least one organoalkoxysilane selected from the group consisting of alkyl-, vinyl-, aminoorganoalkoxysilanes, glycidyl ether-functional and glycidyloxyalkyl-functional alkoxysilanes, fluoroorgano-functional alkoxysilanes, acryloyl- or methacryloyl-functional alkoxysilanes, mercapto-functional alkoxysilanes, sulfane- or polysulfane-functional alkoxysilanes and/or (ii) at least one organosiloxane selected from the group consisting of vinyl-functional siloxanes, glycidyloxyalkyl-functional siloxanes, alkylfunctional siloxanes, methacryloyl-functional siloxanes, fluoroalkyl- and fluoroorganofunctional siloxanes, and

also corresponding cocondensates and/or (iii) at least one silicic ester and/or (iv) at least one oligomeric silicic ester.

Claim 32 (Original): The oligomer mixture as claimed in Claim 1 combined with a hydrolysis and/or condensation catalyst.

Claim 33 (Currently Amended): An emulsion, comprising an ~~the~~ oligomer mixture comprising from 80 to 100% by weight of n-propylethoxysiloxanes having a degree of oligomerization ranging from 2 to 6, as claimed in Claim 1 as the oil phase in an aqueous emulsion.-

Claim 34 (Currently Amended): A composition, comprising an ~~the~~ oligomer mixture comprising from 80 to 100% by weight of n-propylethoxysiloxanes having a degree of oligomerization ranging from 2 to 6, as claimed in Claim 1 together with at least one water-dissolved silane cocondensate and/or at least one water-soluble organic fluorine compound and/or at least one water-emulsified silicone wax.

Claim 35 (Currently Amended): A formulation or composition which comprises an oligomer mixture comprising from 80 to 100% by weight of n-propylethoxysiloxanes having a degree of oligomerization ranging from 2 to 6, as claimed in Claim 1.

Claim 36 (Original): A method of treating substrates, which comprises applying a composition or formulation as claimed in Claim 35 to a substrate surface and optionally subjecting it to thermal and/or photochemical after treatment.

Claim 37 (Original): A layer on a substrate or an impregnation of a substrate prepared as described in Claim 36.

Claim 38 (Original): A surface-treated substrate prepared as claimed in Claim 36.

Claim 39 (Original): An article prepared from a surface-treated substrate as claimed in Claim 37.

Claim 40 (Original): An article prepared from a surface-treated substrate as claimed in Claim 38.

BASIS FOR THE AMENDMENT

The specification has been amended to correct an obvious typographical error.

Claim 1 has been amended by incorporating therein the limitations of Claim 2, Claim 2 being considered allowable by the Examiner, Claims 2, 3 and 5 thus having been canceled.

Claims 31 and 33-35 have been rewritten in independent form to define the oligomer mixture of the scope as in original Claim 1.

The claims also have been amended to improve their language by substituting --comprising-- for "containing" or "which contains", and to use proper Markush terminology.